THE Monarch

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SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY VOLUME XXXVI NO. 1 SINCE 1965

Today

Welcome to SLU Freshman

Freshman Orientation was a positive experience for most of the 384 freshman and parents who attended. The planned activites offered a taste of college life. Page 3

Cafeteria Alternatives

Dade City and the surrounding areas offer a string of cafes, eateries, and restaurants that will give you a good sandwich for a cheap price. Page 4

Get Involved on Campus

Saint Leo offers students a vast array of activity choices on campus. There are intramural sports, organizations, clubs, and, of course, Greek life. Page 6

Bush on Month-Long Vacation

President Bush defended his decision to take a month-long vacation at his Texas home. Americans, however, think a month is too long. Page 5

Bedbugs Are Back in Florida

If you have never slept with a bedbug, you may get your chance. They are making a comeback in the U.S. Page 7

Electronic textbooks changing the way students learn

Digital textbooks provide a new way to communicate at about one-third of the cost.

BOSTON — (COLLEGIATE PRESSWIRE) The ritual of college students poring over textbooks with highlighter in hand will be changing at many campuses this September as increasing numbers of colleges expand their curriculum to include online textbooks.

Accessing digital textbooks is simple, according to Andres Nannetti, CEO of Rovia (http://www.rovia.com), a Boston-based provider of secure, electronic distribution infrastructure. A student goes online, downloads the reader software, and searches for their assigned textbook(s). Rather than paying for the entire book, they rent access to either specific chapters, or the entire text. Digital textbooks often include special features, such as the ability to highlight text, electronically bookmark pages, or even Instant Message (chat) with other classmates online.

With most digital textbooks running about one-third of the t

The bookstore of Saint Leo University may soon be selling fewer expensive, overweight volumes if the electronic textbook trend continues.

versions, they also aid students where it helps most - their checkbook.

''I would love to see more digital versions of my textbooks,'' said Allison, a senior at Syracuse University. ''Buying ten books or more each semester, plus lab guides and other workbooks ... it really adds up.''

For professors eager to engage students in coursework, electronic textbooks provide a new way to communicate with students outside the classroom. For example, they can annotate students` digital textbooks with insights, provide special guidance, or flag important information for a quiz. ETextbooks also enable professors to facilitate online study groups and offer one-click access

ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS PAGE 6

Irresponsibility with a credit card can spell d-o-o-m

The majority of college students do not realize the dangers of debt.

by Shan Anderson
Special to the Monarch

SAINT LEO - Your greatest college danger may not rest in the affects of drugs or alcohol.

In fact, the mounting expense of your new refrigerator on your credit card could seal your doom financially years after graduation! Credit cards seem to be a necessity of modern life; after all, plastic makes money easily accessible in emergencies. However, outstanding credit debt is terrifying, as college students with debt are forced to cancel classes to save money, or work full-time to pay off bills.

In fact, in 1998, the University of Indiana reported it lost more students to credit card debt than to academic failure. In an online poll conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), 28 percent of the 1,628 respondents said they owed less than $1,000 to credit card companies, but 22 percent admitted to owing more than $7,500.

But "it's all a matter of self control," protested junior Cindy Daly, who currently holds several credit cards.

In actuality, enticing advertising can get even the most responsible student into trouble. According to Bankcard Holders of America, 81 percent of students have received a first credit card by the end of freshman year compared with 60 percent in 1996. Also, 70 percent of undergraduates at a four-year college possessed at least one credit card.

Bankcard Holders of America concluded that the dramatic increase in the number of college

CREDIT CARDS PAGE 4

Opinions

EDITORIAL

Glamorization of marijuana poses risks for society

(U-WIRE) EUGENE, Ore. — The use of medical marijuana has recently become newsworthy again in light of the Canadian government's decision to open a pot farm to grow a national supply of the narcotic plant for those deemed in medical need of it.

Our neighbors to the north have decided that marijuana is a real benefit to those with various medical conditions and are therefore steaming full speed ahead with their plan to both grow and hand out the drug through a national system. This is not surprising from a country with an already lax view of the drug and will likely pave the way for more decriminalization of marijuana use in Canada.

To some this is news to rejoice over, but in reality one should be concerned over the growing acceptance and glamorization of marijuana. The drug may indeed have some therapeutic effects for people suffering from various sicknesses, but the vast majority of people smoking or ingesting marijuana in this country today do so for purely recreational reasons.

Supporters of medical marijuana seem blind to this fact and only harp on about what they regard as the plant's seemingly spiritual healing abilities. They do not seem to understand that most people use marijuana only to support their addictive personalities, not to heal their bodies. And using marijuana in this fashion makes the plant no nobler than a can of beer.

At issue here is the fact that as the drug becomes more socially accepted in this country through its decriminalization for medical reasons, the ill effects of marijuana will be ignored. Any study on drug use in this country will show that marijuana is the most pervasive of all narcotics, and more young people are learning how to use it than any other drug.

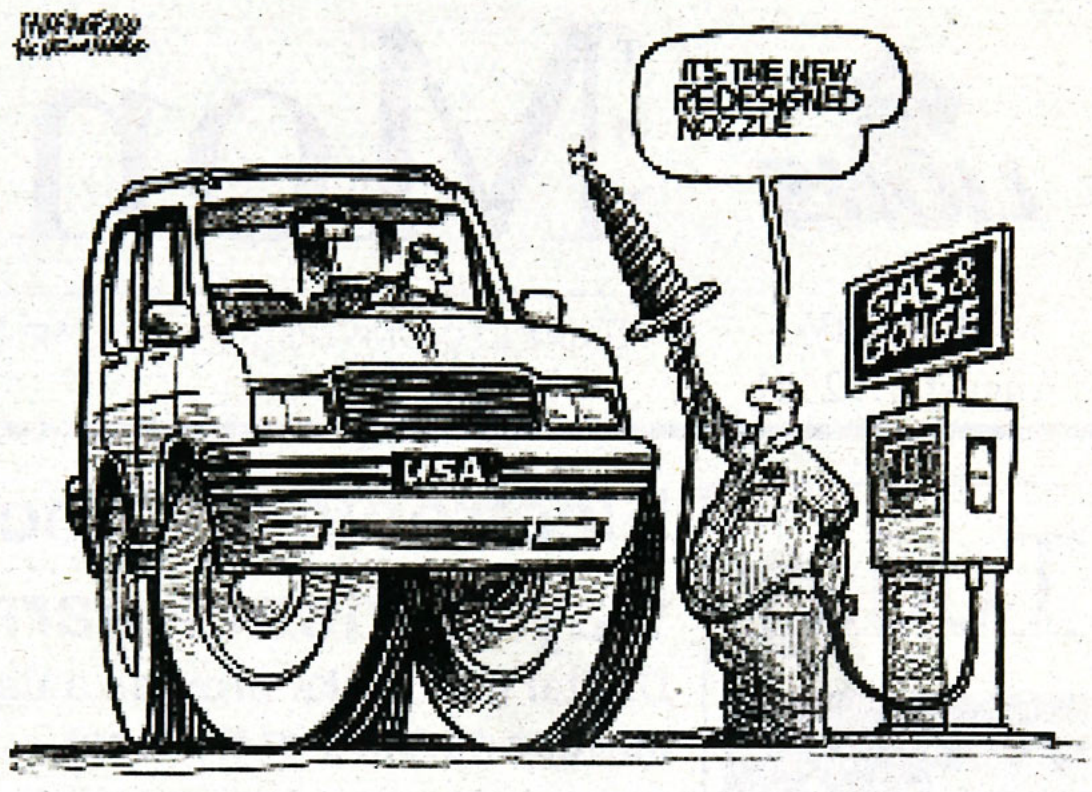
While the pleasant effects of marijuana soothe anxiety and stimulate the appetites of those suffering from chronic diseases, the drug saps the ambition and fuels the addictive tendencies of the average person. There is no factual support for the tired argument that marijuana is a "gateway drug" that leads its users to heroin or cocaine, but basic sense will lead one to understand that any drug is dangerous to a person with an addiction problem. Be it alcohol, tobacco or marijuana, those who want to will get hooked on drugs no matter what substance they start out using.

And if people with a pattern of addiction take up marijuana, it is very likely that they could go on to use more serious drugs. The decision to use marijuana is easier to reach if one believes that the drug is a harmless and healthy substance instead of the powerful narcotic it actually is.

Therefore, in the debate over medical marijuana, this nation needs to move forward in a way mindful of marijuana's risks. Especially in Eugene, the drug is considered somewhat socially acceptable. Decades ago, small-time grifters sold miraculous cure-all tonics that were usually nothing more than codeine and alcohol to gullible folks who believed the fancy talk that a few doses would set them up good. Today a specter of that same confidence scam hovers over the medical marijuana debate. When we focus too much on the possible benefits of the drug, we underestimate its threats and leave more people susceptible to those threats.

Millions of people use marijuana daily. And most of those people lead successful lives, just like the millions who drink alcoholic beverages daily. But we do not praise alcohol as if it were a wonder drug, and we should not do so with marijuana.

Staff Editorial - Oregon Daily Emerald (U. Oregon)



COLUMNS

What's your SSN?

by Lewis Whitten
The Rebel Yell *U. Nevada - Las Vegas)

(U-WIRE) LAS VEGAS — This fall student organizations will be asking members "what's your Social Security number?" Its official name is Student Identification Number, which is your Social Security number.

Oh sure, you could go to some office here on campus, fill out some forms and they will give you a different number, but nobody does that. I have had to ask students for this number and it's not fun. Some students will get uptight, fearing stolen identity or lost credit.

I much prefer asking old people for their Social Security number; they will give that number out to anyone. And why not? By that age you've given it out to so many people that it's just not a big deal anymore. The average old person has had their identity stolen more than 100 times. I'm not even sure who my real parents are anymore.

What I'm trying to say is, get used to it. Unless some Libertarian-minded politicians gain power, you can expect that strange numeric combination to stay with you until your end.
For now it's no big deal to keep your nine government-issued digits from a student organization. But how do you expect to open a bank account or get a credit card without coughing it up? You'll need to hand it over when buying a car or home.

And you must be telling the registrar your Social Security number because you're attending this school. What will happen when you hit Megabucks and some dope in a clown costume asks, "what's your Social Security number?"

You may think your Social Security number is just a bank account number for when you start paying into your government retirement fund, but that's just not true. There is no retirement fund. Your money is taken by force and passed on to some wrinkled old coot.

The whole program is discriminatory too. Men pay more into the system than women do. Yet, women collect more Social Security than men do. That's because they stop handing out the dole when you die, and the average woman's life span is way longer than a man's is. Black males have the shortest average life span, which makes the Social Security program a terrible hate crime committed by politicians.

By creating the 14th Amendment, government officials screwed up things. When the government laid the foundation for the ultimate pyramid scheme, a monster was born. Rather than create security it has forced a burden on America's workforce. It should be called the social insecurity number.

And it's "OK" to use that number as a tool for collecting a database about every aspect of your life.

College is supposed to prepare you for the real world. So next time you have an interest in a student organization, help them out. Tell them your Social Security number. It's good practice for entering the real world because after college, if you apply for a job flipping burgers, some dope in a clown costume is going to ask you "what's your Social Security number?"

Parents and students lined up to begin their college journey, which for some was a frustrating experience. (Photo courtesy SLU Student Affairs)

Casino Night allowed the new students an opportunity to socialize in a Las Vegas-like atmosphere. (Photo courtesy SLU Student Affairs)

Freshman orientation kicks off school year

Parents and students delight in the rural friendliness of Saint Leo.

by Jay Kubica
Monarch Staff Writer

SAINT LEO - College freshmen descended on Saint Leo University this summer. These students took part in Orientation, a series of activities and events designed to help them adjust to college life.

"Summer orientation is a great opportunity for incoming freshmen to get to know each other and Saint Leo University, and have fun doing it," Mark Blair, Assistant Director of Student Activities, explained.

Total attendance for the weekend was 384, with 177 freshmen and 207 guests and parents. All were housed in University residence halls.

"The nice thing about them getting to stay on campus Friday night is that it gives them a taste of community living," Blair said.

New student reaction to Saint Leo was mostly positive.

"I think it's beautiful. The staff seems really supportive, like one big family," Freshman Desiree Walker said.

While friendliness was an acknowledged strongpoint of Saint Leo, the quiet nature of the campus was not always seen with as much enthusiasm.

"I think it's too quiet. Everybody's really friendly, but it's really quiet," Freshman Christy Moreno commented.

Parental reaction was also positive. Donna and Michael Auger, whose daughter Danielle will be attending Saint Leo this fall, were impressed with Saint Leo.

Saint Leo's team of Orientation Leaders was there to guide the freshmen safely through the weekend. (Photo courtesy SLU Student Affairs)

"We're very pleased. It seems to be a friendly and safe environment," Donna Auger said.

"She'll be her own person here, rather than just a statistic," Michael Auger added.

Activities for the weekend were varied, from taking assessment tests to a fun-filled Casino Night. Chips won at Casino Night were used by the students to bid on prizes at an auction.

"Every freshman that comes here is required to take assessment tests, and that determines which math and english classes they will be in," Blair said.

Orientation weekend only marked the first phase of Orientation. Immediately before classes began in the fall, students returned for a second transition program and their matriculation into the student body.

WRITE HERE

Send letters to the editor and guest columns to the Monarch newsroom, Saint Francis Hall, Basement.

Or, send your letter/column by e-mail to monarch@saintleo.com

Letters and guest columns must be submitted with student's name, year and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship.

All letters and columns are subject to editing.

The Monarch reserves the right not to publich any letter or column.

WANTED:

The Monarch wants YOU
to write for US.
You've seen our newspaper.
If you'd like to be a part of it,
please attend our open house.

Wednesday, September 5
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Crawford Hall, Room 1

Briefs

New Dean at School of Business

Dr. Thomas Zimmerer took his post as Dean of the School of Business for Saint Leo University on August 1, 2001. In his position as Dean of the School of Business, Dr. Zimmerer will oversee every aspect of the seven undergraduate degree programs in the School of Business.

Dr. Zimmerer formerly directed Drury University's Breech School of Business Administration and Professional Development. In the course of Dr. Zimmerer's academic leadership career in higher education, he held the Allen and Ruth Harris Chair of Excellence in Business for six years at East Tennessee State University and co-founded the Emerging Technology Development and Marketing Center at Clemson University.

He also served as a management professor for undergraduate and graduate courses at Drury University, East Tennessee State University, Clemson University, Florida Atlantic University and the University of Arkansas and authored and published numerous books, articles, cases and professional papers.

Saint Leo's Largest Bequest

Evelyn V. Burns, a modest woman from Seminole, Fla., made the largest bequest ever directed to Saint Leo University upon her death late last year.

Ms. Burns began making modest gifts to Saint Leo in the 1960s and quietly was making plans to one day be among the University's true philanthropists by naming Saint Leo to receive one-fourth of the remainder of her estate. The executive assistant to a St. Petersburg investment manager and trust officer, Ms. Burns left an estate of nearly $1.5 million. Saint Leo will receive in excess of $350,000.

The funds will go into Saint Leo's University Fund to support faculty, educational technology, library acquisitions and other teaching and research needs; scholarships; and capital improvements. In addition, the University Fund also funds key result areas within the University's strategic plan and adds to the permanent financial strength of Saint Leo through the building of our endowment.

CREDIT CARDS CON'T ——— credit card holders in the past ten years is due to the credit card solicitors and their relentless pursuit of students on campus. These companies corner students not only for their customer loyalty, but because clients with no job and no income rely on responsible parents to pay off expenses.

"It's really quite painless. Students can max out the card because they know that their parents are the ones ultimately paying the bill," added senior Casey Damron.

"Approximately one half of Saint Leo University's 9,000 students pay for school with their credit card," verified Crystal Howey, secretary of Finance and Accounting. "These credit card users charge everything from their tuition and room and board, to small school fees."

According to Howey, Saint Leo has no history of irresponsible student spending. She affirmed that responsible cardholders must make purchases within their budget, pay off more than the minimum payment for each month, and maintain only one card.

However, with a total credit debt of more than $20,000 for some graduating seniors, credit debt is becoming a major concern for schools nationwide. Some schools, such as Widener University, avoid the trap by restricting solicitation while other colleges offer credit card seminars during freshmen orientation.

Indeed, the American Credit Counselors Corp. concluded this is not just a student predicament. The corporation estimated that the average American credit card holder owes $13,000 to credit card companies.

A plethora of meal choices is more than enough to bring a smile to the faces of variety-starved Saint Leo cafeteria regulars. (Photo courtesy SLU Student Government Union)

Alternatives to on-campus meals are just down the road

Dade City and the surrounding areas offer many choices for students' taste buds.

by Dave McCarron
Special to the Monarch

"Spaghetti again."

That is the remark made by most students when they walk in the Saint Leo University's cafeteria for lunch. This school has been trying to better their food service for as long as anyone can remember, and although some changes have been made, the monotony of the menu is still present.

It seems the only other option for lunch at Saint Leo University is Subway, and surely every student can read the Subway menu with his eyes closed. So what to do?

Well, even though Saint Leo is in the midst of a very small community, there are more options for lunch than one would think.

Every student has made the drive to Dade City at least a thousand times and has noticed the fast food chains, such as McDonalds and Wendy's. But, in downtown Dade City, there is a string of cafes that will give you a good sandwich for a cheap price.

If driving to Dade City does not bother you, then the venture to Wesley Chapel, Fla. should not either. Wesley Chapel, which is five miles down I-75, boasts a wide range in sit-down restaurants, which include places like Outback Steakhouse and Applebee's. But you should not neglect Shanghai Buffet, where you can eat all the Chinese food you desire for less than six dollars. Or you can head over to Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q, where they always have specials on their Bar-B-Q beef, pork, chicken, or ribs.

"Even though Saint Leo is in the midst of a very small community, there are more options for lunch than one would think."

But if you do not have time for all that driving, you can stroll down to San Antonio, Fla. for a couple places with flavor in the food and the atmosphere. The Jiffy Mart, off SR 52, looks like a normal 7-11 type store, but it has one of the best delis around. The pressed Cuban is exquisite. Driving a little past the Jiffy Mart will take you to either the Mexican treat, Pancho's Villa, or the family-style San Ann Market. Both have food that will not disappoint.

Finally, Saint Leo's very own Abbey Road Tavern is a stone's throw away and has something on the menu for everyone.

So remember, the next time you are in the cafeteria eating Cheerios for lunch, there is a better way.

Visit the Monarch online at
http://monet.saintleo.edu/monarch

National News

Bush defends spending month on vacation

More than half of Americans believe Bush's vacation was too long.

by Steve Holland
Reuters

WACO, Texas (Reuters) - President Bush launched a vigorous defense of his decision to spend a month on vacation away from Washington as a poll reported a solid majority of Americans think 30 days is too long.

"Washington D.C. is a fine place, and I'm honored to be working in the Oval Office and staying in the compound there. But I'm the kind of person that needs to get outdoors ... It keeps my mind whole, keeps my spirits up," Bush told reporters.

He was speaking shortly after daybreak, the rising sun a red yolk on the horizon, as he prepared to tee off on a round of golf at Ridgewood Country Club. It was the first time he emerged from his Prairie Chapel ranch since arriving in sun-stroked central Texas last Saturday.

A USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll released on Monday said 55 percent of Americans surveyed believe Bush's vacation was too long, compared to 42 percent who believe it was not.

Bush insisted his was a working vacation and that he is weighing such decisions as how to treat illegal Mexican immigrants in the United States, ahead of Mexican President Vicente Fox's state visit to Washington on Sept. 4-5. He has been talking daily to top aides back in Washington.

"I'm working on a lot of issues — national security matters," he said.

He cited the Middle East as an example, saying the United States was "very much engaged in the process" despite complaints from the region of the go-slow U.S. approach.

Bush also scoffed at a question about the withering heat, which has been hitting 100 degrees Fahrenheit consistently in recent days.

"This is Texas. I know a lot of you wish you were in the East Coast, lounging on the beaches, sucking in the salt air. But when you're from Texas, and love Texas, this is where you come home. This is my home. We built a house in the Crawford area. It'll be the house where I live in for the rest of my life. And I like my own home. And I don't mind the heat," he said.

He declined to say if he was close to making his long-awaited announcement on the controversial subject of whether to allow federal funds to be spent on embryonic stem cell research. He is expected to do so before ending his holiday on Labor Day.

By the time he returns to the White House, Bush will have spent almost two months of his presidency at the ranch. This is the seventh visit since his inauguration on Jan. 20.

The 30-day trip is believed to be the longest presidential absence from the White House since Richard Nixon's presidency in the early 1970s.

IMPROVEMENTS ON THE RANCH

The White House billed Bush's vacation as an event-filled ''Home to the Heartland'' tour but so far he has been simply holed up at the heavily guarded ranch with no outings to greet some of the hardy citizens of nearby Crawford who eke out a living on the dry plains.

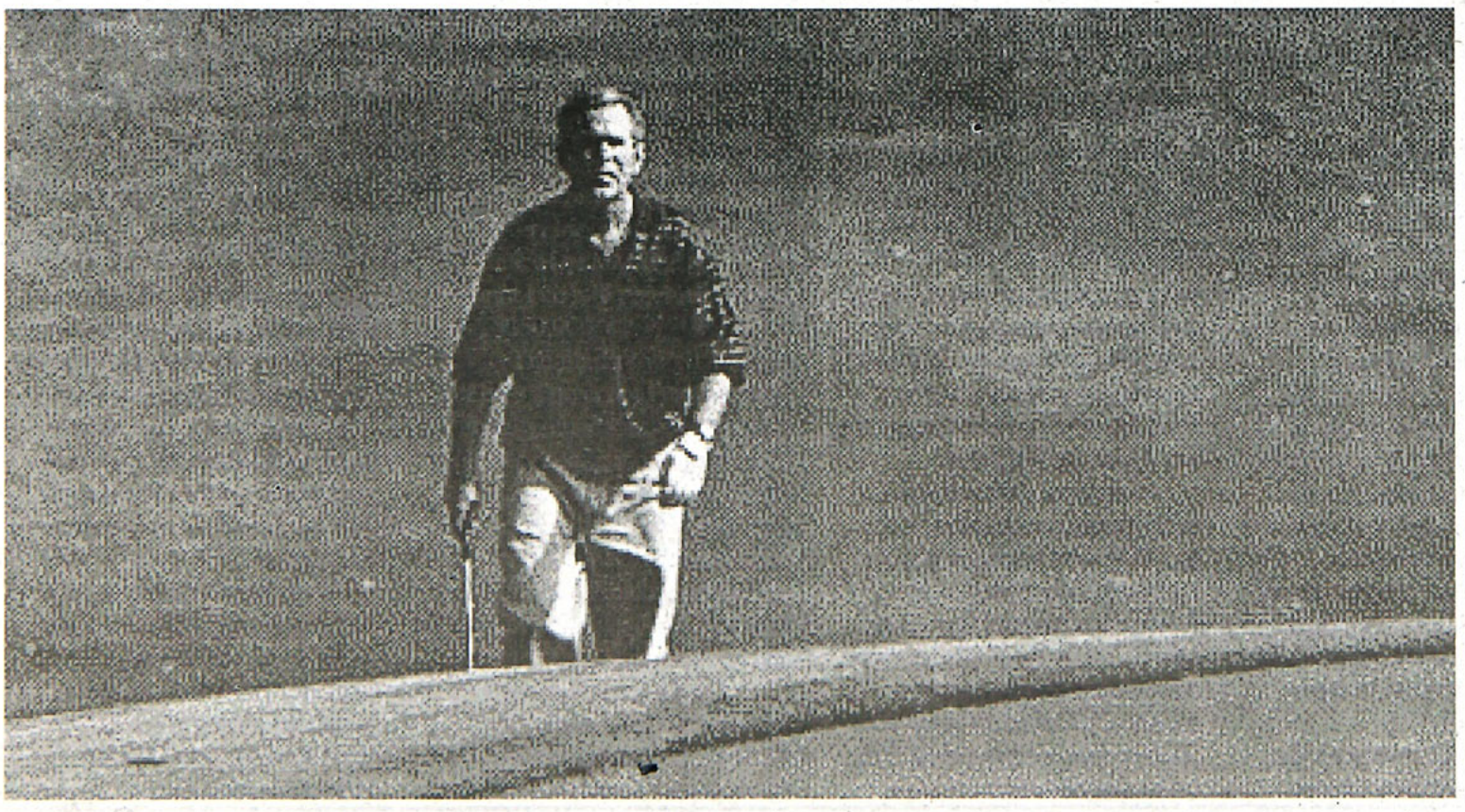
At the lone coffee shop downtown, a combination gas station and restaurant, a sign was posted, "George, Laura, come by." Bush said he had been reading books, including David McCullough's biography of John Adams, and doing chores around his 1,600-acre ranch.

"It's important for people to get outside and to work. I'm making a lot of improvements on the ranch, and I find that to be a good part of keeping me a balanced person," said Bush.

A former two-term governor of Texas, Bush said he did not feel the political heat here like he did back in Washington.

"I'm among friends in Texas. I think the people of Texas know me, they know what I'm like, they know I can make decisions, they know I'm a person who stands on principles. I really don't worry about polls or focus groups. I do what I think is right. And so there's no political heat here," he said.

Washington, he said, is "a lot more partisan."



U.S. President George W. Bush walks up the 18th green to check out the lie of his ball during a round of golf with friends at a Waco, Texas golf course, August 7, 2001. Bush is spending a month-long vacation at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. (Jeff Mitchell/ Reuters)

Student organizations grow in popularity

Opportunities abound at Saint Leo University for those students who want to get involved on campus.

by Jessica Williams and Allison Myatt
Monarch Staff Writers

SAINT LEO - Being a student at Saint Leo University gives a person many opportunities to do well in school. Some students actually chose Saint Leo University because of its small campus. Many students enter their first year not knowing what to expect being on a small campus. What these students do not realize is they have been given the chance to get involved. There are intramural sports, organizations, clubs, and of course Greek Life.

First off, a popular activity of the school is the intramural sports, which start in September with softball and end in May with volleyball. Students do not have to be good at the sport; heck, they don't even have to know how to play.

Each sport forms a team ranging from nine to fifteen players, depending on the game. The teams practice before their games, increasing friendships and skills. Each sport ends with a championship.

In addition, Suzanne Hollis, head of the Recreation Department, gives students the opportunity to start new sports if she does not offer something students like.

"I always encourage students to talk to me about organizing new sports; that's how roller hockey got started," she said. "The only thing I take into consideration is will the cost of buying new equipment be extensive, and is there enough interest to actually conduct some type of competition."

So, start thinking now, what do you want to play? Keep your eyes open for signs to sign-up and form teams for the first games of the season.

Saint Leo University has many great organizations that students can choose from. Are you into service? Join Circle K or the Samaritans. Circle K is the college level of Kiwanis. The club enjoys helping out the surrounding community and is always looking for individuals who enjoy helping others.

"Circle K is planning on becoming more involved with the surrounding community," said Curtis Robinson, a sophomore.

The Samaritans is a service organization that focuses on service through religious efforts. Time and again, the Samaritans have been honored by the SGU for their involvement.

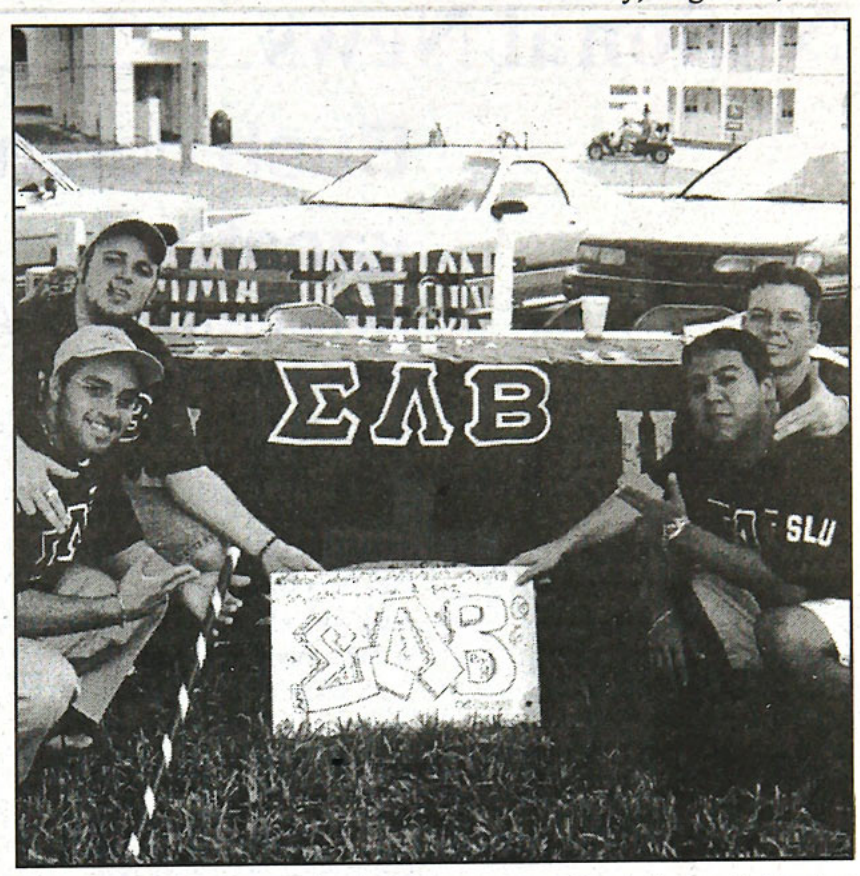
"I have been involved with Samaritans since my freshman year and since I have become involved I have a much better sense of how just a few volunteers can make a big impact in our community," said Janet Samancioglu. "It [Samaritans] has also given me the opportunity to become friends with students who I would not have met otherwise."

A big part of most schools is student government. If you are a good leader and want to have an influence in what goes on, then SGU is for you.

PRIDE is a leadership organization that began this year with the freshman. Through this organization, students were given the opportunity to improve their leadership skills and have fun learning the University's core values.

These are just a few of the many organizations at Saint Leo University.

Clubs are the smaller groupings of organizations. These are usually more based around classes, subjects, or interests. The Psychology Club, a group of psychology majors and minors meet to discuss different opportunities of psychology and take field trips to visit different psychological settings.



Greek Life is one part of the ever-growing family of activities available at Saint Leo (Photo courtesy SLU Student Government Union)

There is also the Social Work Club, Paciolo Accounting Club, Outdoors Club, etc. If you are interested in meeting new people and sharing your experiences, then STAR or Ambassadors would be good for you.

STAR stands for Student Team of Admissions Recruiters. Students take prospective students and their families on tours of the campus and provide the family with any information they need.

"I love being able to show future students around the campus, and it's a great way to meet new and interesting people," said junior Suzzanna Phifer, who has been a STAR member for two years.

Ambassadors are the group of students chosen to represent Saint Leo University at big events. You will know the Ambassadors by the green shirts they wear.

If you are interested in writing, there is a literary magazine or the Monarch newspaper. The yearbook, the Golden Legend, could be what you are looking for, as well.

Finally, Saint Leo University is known for its Greek Life. Everywhere you turn, you will see Greek letters. Greek Life includes honor societies, as well as fraternities and sororities. Students who have completed 12 credits (one semester) and have a 2.25 G.P.A. are invited to participate. Through Greek Life, you embrace a new family. This closeness will remain through college and beyond.

Katie Rowley, a transfer student joined the Alpha Sigma Sorority her second semester at Saint Leo.

When asked what she gains from her experience as a sister in a sorority, Rowley said, "Knowing there is someone who will ALWAYS be there for me, and knowing that men come and go, but a sister is forever; knowing that no matter what the situation, I always can count on any sister."

Rush occurs in January. So, pay close attention in the fall and talk to other students who are Greek about their experiences.

With the opening of a new school year, clubs will be recruiting new members. Once school has begun, visit the Student Affairs Fair. Meet the leaders of the clubs you are interested in and get all your questions answered. Just be careful not to spread yourself too thin. Do not forget why you are here at Saint Leo.

ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS CON'T

to Websites and other multimedia tools referenced in the text.

''In the past, students had limited digital textbook options because publishers worried about copyright infringement,'' says Nannetti. ''But now that textbook publishers have noted the prevalence of the `wired campus` and embraced new eTextbook technology, students returning this fall will find many textbooks available digitally.''

Most college students today, born in the early 1980s, have never used a printed encyclopedia; so using a digital textbook should be a natural transition. In fact, according to many professors it appears these students are actually more comfortable learning in a digital environment.

With the ability to update information continuously, professors are finding digital textbooks to be much more flexible than printed versions. Most print textbooks are updated every three years or so, and information becomes outdated quickly. For professors teaching technology, or other dynamic curriculums, three years is a lifetime.

''Today`s college student has grown up with real-time information, and interacting with multimedia features. The ability to quickly update and customize the digital texts is a key benefit for their use in the classroom,'' said John Pietsch, coordinator of information services at California Polytechnic University`s center for teacher education.

''I teach technical and business writing courses for students pursuing careers in technology,'' says Johndan Johnson-Eilola, technical communications professor at Clarkson University and director of the Eastman Kodak Center for Excellence in Communications.

''Online pedagogy better prepares students for their post-graduation work as so many of their careers will revolve around the Internet.''

With the publishing industry in the process of building portfolio of digital titles, students and professors are ready to make the switch. So, when your child comes home from campus this fall without books, don`t be concerned... they`re online.

Other Campuses

Bedbugs making comeback in U.S., a University of Florida researcher said

Bedbugs, which are flat and the size of a ladybug, attack by sucking blood from their victims. Guess what? They are back in Florida.

by Megan Gales
Independent Florida Alligator (U.Florida)

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Sleep tight, and don't turn on the light. You might have company in your bed tonight.

After a 50-year break, bedbugs are making a comeback in the United States, said Phil Koehler, an urban entomologist at University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Florida is especially at risk because of the volume of international tourists who visit the state, Koehler said.

"(Bedbugs) come in from overseas," Koehler said. "They crawl into suitcases and come out in the U.S."

And they don't just infest sleazy motels.

Often, international tourists stay at nicer hotels, Koehler said, and the bedbugs go along with them. The bugs feed on humans, whether they're staying at nice hotels or cheap hotels.

A family vacationing at a luxury resort in Las Vegas recently told Koehler of their encounter with bedbugs.

They woke up because they felt welts popping up on their skin, Koehler said. They turned on the lights and saw bedbugs crawling on the sheets.

Bedbugs are about the size of ladybugs, only flat, Koehler said. Humans are not the bedbugs' only prey; they also feed off of livestock and birds. Like mosquitoes, bedbugs attack by sucking blood from their victims. However, bedbugs don't carry disease.

"Mainly, the problem is with sleeping with a blood-sucking insect," Koehler said.

Because it has been so long since the last U.S. bedbug infestation, Koehler said hotels often don't look for bedbugs, or they don't know what to look for.

For the family in Las Vegas, their hotel wouldn't admit that bugs lurked in the sheets.

Hotels need to admit there's a problem if guests complain, Koehler said.

"It's better to recognize it and treat it before it gets out of hand," he said.

Besides sometimes being visible on a bed, the telltale sign of a bedbug's presence is little red spots on the sheets, Koehler said. During the attack bedbugs excrete some blood, leaving small stains.

Luxury hotel and resort chain Ritz-Carlton views cleanliness as a way to fight insect infestations, said spokeswoman Shelby Taylor.

"We do whatever it takes to make the guests as comfortable as possible," Taylor said. "Our guests are our top priority."

The Reitz Union Hotel takes a similar stance, said Assistant Manager Pam Burrow.

"It would seem that common sense plays a part," Burrow said. "Keep the rooms clean, and keep the linens done."

Though the Reitz Union Hotel hasn't had a problem with bedbugs in the past, if a guest were to complain about bedbugs, Burrow said the hotel would call a pest control service.

Current pest control methods don't work on bedbugs, Koehler said. In addition to increased international tourism, it explains the increased bedbug population.

Within the past few years, pest control techniques have moved away from spraying and toward setting traps. Cockroaches are specifically targeted by these methods. Bedbugs aren't bothered by them, though.

Once there's an infestation, it's hard to get rid of bedbugs.

"It's a very intensive and usually expensive operation," Koehler said.

Ron Sims, branch manager of the Orkin Exterminating Company in Gainesville, Fla., has experience dealing with a bedbug infestation on a college campus. He said the first thing to do to stop bedbugs is laundry.

"Handle the sanitation aspects first," Sims said.

If that doesn't work, Sims said that a pest control spray should then be used around the bed and on the mattress.

Check the rest of the room, too. Bedbugs are often found in several pieces of furniture in a room, such as overstuffed chairs, Koehler said. In addition, they can crawl into suitcases at a hotel and travel home with their victims.

Sims said the hotels he regularly services do not have him check for bedbugs.

There's no sure way to avoid bedbugs completely, Koehler said. The best way is to stay away.

"Stay home," Koehler said. "There's not a whole lot you can do."

A gull chomps on a mouthful of potato chips at a beach on Bailey Island, Wednesday, August 1, 2001, in Harpswell, Maine. On many beaches there are signs warning people not to feed gulls but sometimes the birds feed themselves. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

New vehicle to be used for tracking hurricanes

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - State meteorologists plan to use a modified Mack truck they call the "Seminole Hurricane Hunter" to keep an eye on storms during the upcoming hurricane season.

School officials say the truck is the most sophisticated mobile weather station in the country.

The truck - outfitted with a braced cab and hydraulic posts that spread up to 20 feet-- can withstand even the most powerful hurricane, with top sustained winds of more than 155 mph, said Peter S. Ray, chair of the FSU meteorology department.

"This truck can go to the hurricane and take the measurements close enough where you can get fine scale," Ray told the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference.

The mobile center is one of only three in use, Ray said, but FSU's truck will be larger and more sophisticated than the other vehicles, which sport only one radar each.

The donated $168,000 vehicle will instead feature two separate radar systems, each with its own transmitter, along with a 25,000-watt generator. Bought fully fitted, it would cost about $1.5 million, Ray said. FSU paid about $400,000 for equipment and supplied the labor. He said the college is soliciting donors to help offset the cost of the storm-tracker.

SLU Sports

Volleyball: A new season approaches

The team hopes to beat their record.

by Jessica Williams
Monarch Staff Writer

"Spike" is the term the volleyball team hopes to use a lot toward their opposing teams in the upcoming 2001 season.

Last year, Saint Leo's volleyball team had hoped to beat their 1999 overall record of 20-17; instead they scored 17-18. Although they didn't place in the Sunshine State ConferenceTournament in which they placed fifth in 1999, two members of team earned awards. Tina Florea, a middle hitter won Second Team Student Athlete, and Amy Huston, an outside hitter, won honorable mention.

So, the girls are deserving of a championship year.

"We've had commendable season in the past, but this year I think the program is bound to take off," Shan Anderson, a returning senior, said. "Our team finally has the perfect mixture of skill, dedication, and sisterhood, and the coach is as positive about it as ever."

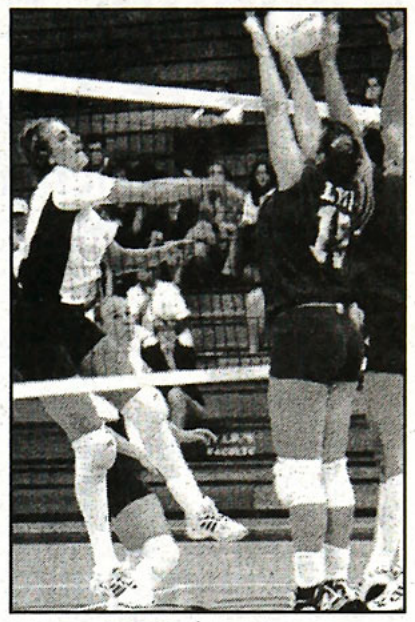
Anderson, who is returning to the team after taking a year off, will prove her dedication to the team.

"As an athlete that took a year off, I'm well aware that I must push twice as hard as the rest of the team to conquer a competitive edge," she said.

With this attitude, the girls will surely work their way back into the Sunshine State Conference with more confidence and willpower that will push them to succeed.

Bill Lent, who coaches the team, and the girls will start the 2001 season in August. Practice begins August 13 in preparation for their first game on August 25.

Lent enters his seventh year as head coach of the SLU volleyball team. He became the first full-time coach in the program's history when he was hired before the start of the 1995 season. Lent became the university's all-time winning coach in 1998, surpassing the first coach, Paula Smith. The program has averaged just fewer than 15 wins per season since Lent's arrival in 1995, doubling the team's average of seven wins per season through the first half of the 1990s…a big accomplishment.



Bill Lent is the Head Coach of the SLU Woman's Volleyball Team; Tina Florea won Second Team Student Athlete
(Saint Leo University)

Three seasons in a row, Lent has had a player named to the Sunshine State Conference All-Freshman team. Lent has had extensive coaching experience, ranging from high school through the National College Athletics Association Division I ranks. He has also worked as a clinician at many prestigious camps and clinics around the country.

Lent received his bachelor of science degree in sociology from Wright State University in 1978 and later returned to the school to earn a second bachelor of science degree in physical education in 1983. He later earned a master of science degree in physical education from the University of Dayton in 1986. He is currently USAV certified.

With Lent's credentials and the girls' confidence, this year should be a winning season. Lent has high goals for the girls this season.

"I want to win a lot of matches and work very hard," he said. "We have a very tough schedule, and have a very good chance of making it to the NCAA championship."

Will the girls' beat their record from 1999 this year and make it to the NCAA championship? Come out and cheer them on. Their first game is August 25 at Saint Leo University in the Marion Bowman Center. The schedule for this season is below.

Date	Event/Opponent	Location	Time
25-Aug-01	Saint Leo Showdown	Saint Leo	9 a.m.
25-Aug-01	Saint Leo Showdown	Saint Leo	1 p.m.
26-Aug-01	Saint Leo Showdown	Saint Leo	9 a.m.
31-Aug-01	USC-Aiken Tournament	Aiken, SC	5:30 p.m.
1-Sep-01	USC-Akien Tournament	USC-Aiken	2 p.m.
1-Sep-01	USC-Akien Tournament	Aiken, SC	10 a.m.
7-Sep-01	Armstrong Atlantic Tournament	Savannah, GA	TBA
12-Sep-01	Flagler College	Saint Leo	7 p.m.
21-Sep-01	Lynn University*	Boca Raton	7 p.m.
22-Sep-01	Barry University*	Miami Shores	2 p.m.
28-Sep-01	Florida Tech*	Saint Leo	7 p.m.
29-Sep-01	Rollins College*	Saint Leo	2 p.m.
3-Oct-01	Florida Southern College*	Saint Leo	7 p.m.
5-Oct-01	Wingate University	Saint Leo	7 p.m.
6-Oct-01	Lenoir-Rhyne College	Saint Leo	6 p.m.
6-Oct-01	Presbyterian College	Saint Leo	1 p.m.
12-Oct-01	Florida Southern Invitational	Lakeland	6:30 p.m.
13-Oct-01	Moccasin Invitation	Lakeland, FL	4 p.m.
13-Oct-01	Moccasin Invitation	Lakeland, FL	10 a.m.
17-Oct-01	Eckerd College*	Saint Leo	7 p.m.
20-Oct-01	Univ. of Tampa*	Tampa	7 p.m.
27-Oct-01	Lynn University*	Saint Leo	2 p.m.
28-Oct-01	Barry University*	Saint Leo	2 p.m.
2-Nov-01	Rollins College*	Winter Park	7 p.m.
3-Nov-01	Florida Tech*	Melbourne	2 p.m.
6-Nov-01	Florida Southern College*	Lakeland	7:30 p.m.
7-Nov-01	Univ. of Tampa*	Saint Leo	7 p.m.
12-Nov-01	Eckerd College*	St. Petersburg	7 p.m.

* De-notes Sunshine State Conference game